

many other activities that have bettered her community.

My thoughts and best wishes are with Edie, her children and her grandchildren for success in their future endeavors. Once again, I congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for her thirty-five years of continual service to the Town of Bedford. It is an honor to represent her in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. CARL D. SOMMERS

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Carl D. Sommers, a true leader and a dedicated spokesman for New Jersey's labor movement. He has served the many members of organized labor in my home state for over 25 years and at his retirement, he is to be honored for his contributions to the Sheet Metal Workers Union.

Born and raised in Lawrence Township, New Jersey, Carol graduated from the Trenton High Vocational Sheet Metal Program. He began his career by serving a four-year apprenticeship with Sheet Metal Workers Local #27, where he has remained a member until this day. He has served his union as a local Union Shop Steward, Trustee, Executive Board Member, and as a member of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Fund. Carl also served as a Trustee of the Education Fund, monitoring and managing the Financial Training Facility and Teacher programs. As a member of the Supplemental Unemployment Fund Board, Carl has helped his union colleagues during periods of unemployment.

Carl was elected as Business Representative of Local 27 in 1990. In this new position, he adeptly represented the concerns and the welfare of his Union in labor disputes and corrected violations of collective bargaining agreements. He was also responsible for the daily work assignments of all Local members and attended labor seminars in an effort to protect the union rights.

He has proudly served his members by serving on the Contract Negotiating Committee, and attending rallies to garner support for pro-labor legislation. He recently became a Trustee of the New Jersey State Labor Council of Sheet Metal Workers, a member of both the Camden County Building Trades Council and the Warren County Building Trades Council. For over two years, Carl has served as Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Mercer-Burlington Counties and Vicinities Building Trades Council.

On the eve of his retirement, it brings me great pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Carl Sommers and his actions and efforts should be commended. The New Jersey labor community should be proud to have had Carl as a member and should be assured that he will continue to monitor and participate in the labor movement.●

TRIBUTE TO BRAVE GEORGIAN RESCUERS

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize three Georgians who went above and beyond the call of duty in a daring rescue mission yesterday. We watched with awe as Robert Clines, Larry Rogers and Matt Mosely successfully rescued Ivers Sims, a construction worker who found himself suspended some 180-feet in the air trapped by a raging fire.

Roger Clines, a Georgia Department of Natural Resources pilot, and his navigator Larry Rogers negotiated their helicopter through treacherous wind, smoke and fire, as Atlanta firefighter Matt Mosely dangled on a rope to rescue Mr. Sims—a dramatic and heroic scene.

I want to take a moment to recognize and honor the teamwork, dedication and bravery that resulted in this successful rescue mission. These three men, in the true spirit of heroism, risked their lives for the sake of a fellow human being.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and pay tribute to all of Atlanta's firefighters, the Atlanta police officers, Sheriff's deputies, and the Cabbagetown residents themselves, who worked together to fight the massive fire that engulfed the historic cotton mill. Our firefighters, facing shortages of equipment and personnel, heroically fought and contained a fire that could have destroyed an historic neighborhood currently being revitalized. Residents at home during the fire helped by rescuing neighbors' pets, and used garden hoses to extinguish burning debris.

As devastating as it was for residents of Atlanta's Cabbagetown to watch this historic landmark burn, the heroism of the day—like Atlanta's symbol the Phoenix—rose from the ashes. Although we mourn the loss of this historic landmark, it is good to know that we will remember this day not for the tragedy that could have been, but for the heroism that was.●

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this week from April 11-17 we are celebrating the 41st anniversary of "National Library Week." As a strong and vigorous supporter of Federal initiatives to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to take this opportunity to draw my colleagues' attention to this important occasion and to take a few moments to reflect on the significance of libraries to our nation.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the same principle of free and open exchange of ideas as the Constitution itself. Libraries have always been an integral part of all that our country embodies: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an

open and enlightened society. They are the only public agencies in which the services rendered are intended for, and available to, every segment of our society.

It has been my longstanding view that libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. From modest beginnings in the mid-19th century, today's libraries provide well-stocked reference centers and wide-ranging loan services based on a system of branches, often further supplemented by traveling libraries serving outlying districts. Libraries promote the reading of books among adults, adolescents, and children and provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain reliable information on a vast array of topics.

Libraries gain even further significance in this age of rapid technological advancement where they are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well. In today's society, libraries provide audio-visual materials, computer services, internet access terminals, facilities for community lectures and performances, tapes, records, videocassettes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

Of course, libraries are not merely passive repositories of materials. They are engines of learning—the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who for whatever reason have not had exposure to the vast stores of knowledge available. I have the greatest respect for those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremendous rewards available through our library system.

My own State of Maryland has 24 public library systems providing a full range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. This policy has been enhanced by the State Library Network which provides interlibrary loans to the State's public, academic, special libraries and school library media centers. The Network receives strong support from the State Library Resource Center at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Regional Library Resource Centers in Western, Southern, and Eastern Shore counties, and a Statewide database of holdings totalling 178 libraries.

The result of this unique joint State-County resource sharing is an extraordinary level of library services available to the citizens of Maryland. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service by borrowing more public library materials per person than citizens of almost any other State, with 67 percent of the State's population registered as library patrons.